IMPORTANT FROM WASHINGTON.

Intense Excitement at the Federal Capital.

Shall Fort Sumter be Reinforced or Evacuated?

The Cabinet in Council on the Question of Peace or War.

Caucus of the Republican Senstors on the Subject.

The Straitened Condition of Major Anderson's Command.

Warlike Movements of the Gov-

Concentration of Troops and Ships of War on the Atlantic Cosst,

THE QUESTION OF EVACUATING FORT

SUMTER.

An efficial letter from Major Anderson, received on Satur-day, says he had only fifteen days' subsistence and wood. The question has therefore risen with 'the administration shather a reinforcement shall be attempted or the fort abaneoned. The latter course, it is thought, will be depted from inevitable necessity, by advice of Lieut.

day by the rumor that Fort Sumter is to be evacuated. The radical republicans, upon hearing the report, fly into cursing before ascertaining what the facts are. Some declare the party reined; others denounce the administra done; that before the troops could reach him with protions, and by the dictates of bumanity, to salute his flag and march his men out of the fort to save them from ton that the government will send a supply vessel there and if she is fired into Major Anderson will shell the ony." The answer of the statesman to that is, "Then you take up a quarrel you did not begin, and irritate a

So the discussion has been going on all day, in almost every knot of people that have assembled anywhere.

The Cabinet had a meeting this afternoon, when the
subject of Fort Sumter was renewed. The turning point

nforce the place in season to save Major Anderson befere he will be compelled to surrender to general starcivil or political one, but is narrowed down to a scientific

decision about Fort Sumter, preferring to postpone fina action fintil to morrow or next day, but that Major Ander there is no doubt. It is not yet settled how this will be to Charleston to convey the troops away.

When the Cabinet settles upon this course they will undoubtedly decide also to blockade the harbor of Charleston and other ports, and collect the revenue. It gress will be immediately called. At present, if troops were needed for immediate service, the President would Congress passed no law authorizing him to do so.

The administration are yet undecided as to the policy to be pursued in regard to Fort Semter and Fort Pickens. afraid to take the responsibility. They are endeavoring to shirk the matter and throw it upon the last administration. This will not answer. They should come boldly forward, assume the responsibility and share the credit

of restoring peace to the country.

The republican Senators, immediately after the adjournment, held a caucus and remained in session for up wards of two hours. It is understood that the questi of evacuating Fort Sumter was one of the questions under consideration. There are a large majority of Senators garded as a back down from their position. Other Sena-tors say they had better back down a thousand times

than plunge the country into civil war. Wasserow, March 9, 1961. The Cabinet again met at two P. M. and remained !

session for nearly three hours. It is known that after passing upon a few appointments the question of reinforcing or abandoning Fort Sumter came up, and was the subject of a h gbly animated discussion; but nothing positive has transpired as to the result of the deliberations. It is, however, asserted by those likely to be best inform ed on the subject, that an evacuation will be determined

but will, bise his radical colleagues, probably give away to the stubkern fact of the impracticability of a reinforcement with the present military and financial means

The President himself is said to chafe under the new apparently inaritable necessity of evacuating as much as any member of the Cabinet, but disposed nevertheless to be convinced by the conclusive demonstrations of mili-tary authorities. He, with his constitutional advisors. greatly freads the deeply demoral zing effect of a retreat apon their party and the country at large.

The gloom and enertification of the republican politi-

clans now here is full force, at the humiliation involved describable. They say but little, yet feel the more. They are note willing to day to acknowledge the impossibility fort and batter down the arch rebeis of Charleston. But they are as yet unprepared to face the melancholy probability of an abandonment, at an early date, of the last stronghold of the federal power in the State that ploneered in the cause of secession. They confess that the new administration could not possibly be placed in a worse

ment that the Provident had issued an order to evacuate Fact Sumfer this morning. This is a mistake. General Comeron told several gentlemen who purposely called on him at noon that no such movement has been decided

question in every circle to-night. Men rave until they bear the facts. Senator Wade is in favor of planting on hondred thousand men to engage the fortifications about Fort Sumter, in order to re-inforce Major Anderson if no cospary. Thaddeus Stevens says he does not believe the geory about provisions giving out. Senator Sumner says ofor this necessity, if it exists the present administra-is not responsible. It is a part of the legacy of the late tut ce"-of the Roman law. Among the more conservatroops is received as a wise policy.

Quite a number of Wall street men are on here, making

THE CABINET IN A WAR CONFERENCE-THE SOUTHERN COMMISSIONERS, ETC.

Washington, March 11, 1861. The despatch I sent you on Friday night in regard to the rejudiresment of the forts you may depend upon as

Reling on the subject is intense, facts having lanked

matter under advisement for upwards of a menth; that he has been in frequent communication with Major An-derson, and that a plan has been matured, which only awaits a signal from the administration to be put into

To add to the excitement, four tabinet officers are War Department, engaged in the discussion of the future policy of the administration and war measures generally. These facts having been spread abroad, a powerful

pressure has been brought to bear upon the government from Wall street, with a view if possible to not only stay coercive proceedings, but to induce the abandonment of the forts. Up to this afternoon, however, the effort was not successful and a decision will not be had for several

teen thrown out with a view to prepare the public mind for a step so unlooked for, and so utterly at variance with the hitherto asserted intentions of the administration; and at the same time to strengthen the knees of those who believe that the removal of the troops will tend to disappoint and disorganize the party. The radi-cale are savage about the supposed caving in of the

tained. What he may be persuaded to do to preserve

the country from civil war remains to be seen. the President to morrow. The arrangement was made, I understand, through Governor Seward by Senator

IMPORTANT NAVAL AND MILITARY MOVE-

WASHINGTON, March 31, 1861. Despatches were received this morning at the Navy department from Flag Officer Pendegraat, with dates from Vera Cruz to the 25th ult. In compliance with orders ship Cumberland, for Hampton Roads, where he will probably arrive to-morrow or next day. All the vessels belonging to the Home Squadron, excepting the Macedomian, are also ordered to report at Hampton Roads.

The government are concentrating all their vessels at the various posts on the atlantic. This locks as though the administration intended to carry out the language

available United States troops at Fortresses Monroe and McHenry, and large quantities of supplies have been shipped and are on their way to the South, and most am ple preparations are going forward to put the govern

ment on a war footing.

The Cumberland and Pocaherias have, according to official advices, left Vera Cruz for Norfolk. The Powhata is on her way to New York.

This does not look like abandening the forts in the Gouth. This, however, has been General Scott's policy. The new administration may pursue a different one.

An official despatch was received from Monty to at once enter upon the business of negotiation with the administration, without waiting for their co-Commic

tor Mason late this afternoon called upon Mr Seward, to ascertain what decision had been made in regard to the interview of the Commissioners with Pres dent Lincoln. Mr. Seward informed him that President they had to say. Of source he receives them as citizens of the United States. They are accredited by President Bavis as Commissionese to the United States to treat or negotiate for the property within their limits.

The President was greatly annoyed to-day, up to the time of the Cabinet meeting, by expectants, high and spicuous among whom ware for Corwin and Carl Schurz. He complains greatly of want of exercise, a walk over the grounds of the White House yesterday afterroon beplace-wanting friends would oblige him greatly by holdto see them so engerly applying for rooms at one end of the building while the other was burning. A good deal of dissatisfaction is expressed by those

who desire to find places for themselves or friends at the public crib, with the rule of the new Postmaster General pointments in their several districts. They contend that it places too much power in often improper bands, and

All the departments were again besieged by place hunters to-day, but Mr. Blair alone indulged them to any satisfactory degree. Mesers. Chase and Seward denies

Mr. Chase is considering the more important appoint ments in his Department, and is expected to announce some to-morrow. R. Skinner, his nephew, has arrived here to take a position under him. Some of his place cold treatment. Some tall growling is heard among the disappointed applicants from Northern Ohio in reference to the Cleveland and other appointments. They say the Western Reserve influences control everything, and the claims of the conservatives are entirely overlooked.

material for appointments in the slave States. Any number of alleged republican martyrs from that section hese gentry does not bear investigation.

prospect of the appointment of Dr. Jayne, Senator Trumuil's brother in law, to some federal office. He was elected a member of the State Senate last fall by only seven votes, and there being but one republican majorite in that body, it is feared his resignation will result in it control by the democrate, as an election of a republican

occessor is hardly possible.
Colonel Button, of Vermont, is here applying for a prominent position in the Post Office Department. He is strongly backed up by the Governors and Congressional

The a atement that Mr. Judd is putting himself in any way forward in urging the appointment of friends is

HEALTH OF MR. SEWARD. Secretary Seward has been able to resume his duties to day. He rode out, attended a Cabinet meeting, and dined the members of the Cabinet at his residence this

The appearance of Governor Seward at the State De-partment this morning was the signal for a grand rush of hordes of expectants. The passage way to the Secre tary's room was completely blocked up. The "oldest in babitant" says he never witnessed such a scene. The

Lieutenant Governor Goodrich, of Massa of Boston. The nomination was laid over until to-mor-row, when he will be confirmed, without any doubt. The

Amos Tuck, of New Hampshire, as Naval Officer of Boston. The Massachusetts delegation did not act upon this appointment, but have under consideration the publisher of the Boston Journal, for that place.

THE LIVERPOOL CORSULATE. Little john, Speaker of the New York Assembly. It is the most valuable Consulate in the gift of the President.

The Fresident also sent in nominations, which were appropriately referred, of George W. McClellan, Secretary of the State Republican Committee of Mamachusetts, as Second Amistant Postmaster General; Archibald Williams, of Illinois, District Judge for Kansas; and Mr. Dole, of

S. Curtis is appointed Postmaster at Denver City.

Mr. Bucherst has been appointed postmaster at Pit
burg, and Mr. Stockton postmaster at Maryaville, Ky.
THE POREIGN MISSIONS.

ting alarmed at the policy of the new administration in sending such men as Kresman and Schurz abroad, whe are denominated European radicals and revo-Intionists. Despatches have been cent by the Prussian and Sardinian Ministers to their respective governments setting forth the fact. The arguis, that such a course on the part of this government will listurb the peaceful negotiations now going on between

All such epposition is groundless so far as Kresman soncerned. When he left Germany he was too young to participate in political strife. He received his early re-litical education in Massachusetts, from such men as Sumper, Banke, Boutwell, Adams, Palfrey, and men of that

to change the programme of senting Schure to Sardinia, and make him Minister to Brazil. This will leave Anson

of refugees as representatives of this government abroad, it is confined to Prussia, and that disaffection grew out of eend a Prussian refugee to represent this government at Berlin. I am satisfied that no such feeling exists on the part of the Sardinian government towards Kr. Schurz. He is a Prussian refugee, and is still a prominent candi-

THE PENNSYLVANIA UNITED STATES SENATOR Covernor Curtin leaves for Harrisburg to-morrow. He arrice with him the Senatorial resignation of Mr. Cameren. Mr. Wilmot will endoubtedly be his successor.

Governor Curtin called upon General Sameron to-day, and congratulated him upon his appointment to the Cabiin Pennsylvania between Mr. Ketchum and Mr. Wilmot,

The Criminal Court to day discharged Wm. H. Russell, who was indicted in connection with the abstraction of the Indian Trust bonds. This judicial course was in accordance with the law of 1857, which exempts witnesses

Commodere Stewart, of the Philadelphia Navy Yard, arrived here to uight. He is President of the Court Martial ordered on Commodore Armstrong, who surrendered the Penzaocla Navy Yard. Commodore Stringham, another member of the Board has also arrived.

commodore Stewart says that Fort Sumter ought not

The contract under the recent Congressional enautment for the establishment of a daily overland mail was sent. out to-day from the department, and the contractors noti-fied to move immediately from the Southern to the towards the end of May

Utah mail contractore and proprietors of the geny

express will sell their stock to their successors. THE SECESSION QUESTION IN VIRGINIA.

evening informs me that the secessionists are gaining strength every day. He said it was understood that they lacked only about ten votes-of having a conjority in favor of carrying the secession ordinance. He says that unless Lincoln pursues a pacific policy, which will give the submissionists something to stand upon, they may ret be nole to bring over enough to carry their goint.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE REPALD.

On Saturday last the newspaper correspondents and that Fort Sumter was speedily to be evacuated. This by the winged telegraph, created universal actonishment. Coming, as the annuacement did, from headquarters, and openly declared as the result of Cabinet councils, it was at once supposed that this course had been determined f not the only method of presenting civil war and paving the way to a resonstruction of the Caion. To

anticipation of a speedy influx of their former Southern patrons. Bank exchanges and uncurrent funds have ex-perienced marked buoyancy. In Wall street, at the stock board, there has been a furor of activity—the sales, in magnitude and prices, exceeding those of any period for several months' past. The knowledge of these acts has not by any means been confined to our moneyed but has gained rapidly throughout the length and breadth of the metropolis by being complemently embiazoned upon newspaper bulletine, heraided through the streets by the newsboys, and canvassed in the cars, omnibusees and terryboats that constantly ply on and around the

as to the intended evacuation of Fort Sumter are utterly without foundation. On the contrary, there is every reason to suppose that this story has been concoted and published with a view to put the people of South Caro-lina off the scent regarding this fort. Holding the position that this fort does, as key to the Charleston harbor, it is improbable in the first place that the government, just inaugurated upon a coercion basis, would relinquish it to the Southern confederacy, much less to the South Again, it is not likely that Mr. Lincoln, after his positive declarations in his inaugural relative to the holding, occupying and possessing of Southern forts, would so soon abandon this proclaimed policy—an abandoment at once yielding up was elected to his present high position. This evacuation story, it is further believed, was originated before tom of its concoction were General Scott, ex-Secretary Dix and Mr. Holt. Having matured the plan and taken the initiatory steps for carrying it to completion, the same once accepted it and is now preparing to carry out the original programme in its fullest details. Parties in the secret have, as a matter of course, turned the same to their pecuniary account. Knowing that stocks would rise they have turned themselves into immense while the ignorant bulls are buying largely. In a few days the scales will fall from the peculations will be as startling as was the first announce ent of the embezzlement and sale of the stoien Wash

belief that the evacuation story is a base fabrication, got up, as above stated, for the purpose of putting South Ca-rolina off her guard and aiding Wall street stock jobbors. Instead of withdrawing the troops from the fort it is pro-posed to send additional men and stores there. The great subject of prolonged conference has been how to accomplish the same. The first step in this direction is now believster to Texas. As far back as then the perfldy of General Twiggs was known, and it was the intention to se cure some of the men under his command for further service to the United States government. According to the anguaged programme this steamer

aine District Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio. | should blave returned to this port some time age, where await og additional ordere to those imparted during her

well loaded with previsions and coal, and under govern ment orders. Pivo days ago she cleared for to tlancks. sea spparently; in reality, however, she has gone tuswelting to be joined by the Star of the West. The latter steamship has been chartered by the government for rapidly as possible with army stores. All day flunday they were receiving cargo on board, and also articles abipped is allarge number of embulances, tem-

The Crusader and the Mohawk are being rapidly put in

med will all ctart down the bay together. Meantime orders are alleged to have been given totall national ves nels in Southern ports to be on hend has certain date off nterior, abould they be intercepted by the guard beats of them. " On a stormy night the batteries, of course, not be brought into play with any great advantage.

solved, and the facts stated, clearly indicate that this plantiz being steadily worked cut. Its shrewdness no one can gaineny, and the feasibility of placing any num her of men and any quantity of provisions and arms at the disposal of the commander of the besieged fort is

Washington, March 11, 2861. THE PROPOSED SELPCTSION OF SENATOR WIGSZIF.

esolution for the expulsion of Senator Wigfall and Cling

Mr. FOSTER, (rep.) of Conn., said that he had very few words to utter, both as to the resolution and enterlitute, and therefore would not enter into any lengthy discusend therefore would not enter into any lengthy discustion. It was proper he should state that he ofered the
resolution on his own responsibility, and without consulting with any political friends. He had presented is,
stripped of all considerations, as far as it was possible to
do so, that its night be acted on upon its maked merits.
A seat in this chamber was held on a foundation
higher than party grounds, and hence he trusted that
the Senate would rise above all such considerations.
The constitution provides for the qualification and the
manner of election of Senators, and he read from that instrument the words upon this subject. It was not on the
ground that the Senator from texas was foreign-form that
he was liable to objection. It was to be supposed that he
was native born, and that he was born out of the jurisdiction of this country. It, hewever, seemed to lifting
(Mr. Foster) that the Senate cowed it to itself not to
allow a seat here to one who avowed he was
a foreigner and owed no allegiance to the country
to which he belonged, but to a foreign government, and
if that government bappens to take up arms against this
government, selves its accoparity, and expess from its territory the troops of the Unites States by force, it became
a very Serious question. Was it consistent to allow on
so circumstanced longer to hold a reat here? He repeated
the had no personal feeding on the cubject. He could say
with great propricty, so far as his personal relations with
the Senator from Texas was concerned, they were entirely kind and friendily. The substitute of the Senator
from North Carolina assumes that Texas has a right to
secede, and it was a logical conclusion that his sock-cent
she had no right to cents here. In this he differed from
the Senator. He did not believe any State has the right
or power, under the constitution, to secede or take feasifout of the Union of the State which po to make up those
of America. He differed widely and radically from-such
theories. It was altogether monatroon that

see decession was known to the constitution will too plain to argue or aften of a death of a feath of the feath

no, entitled to his seat, it could be vacated whenever lasts to warrant such a course should be shoovered. If it be a pun shable offence to allege a constitutional truth, then the resolution may be well canded. For ose, he (Mr. Mascon) recognized and allegance to this government. He recognized and allegance to this government.—no whatever And here he took his position alongside of the Senator from Texas, although Virginia is a constitution of the government, and he one of her representatives. He owed allegance to Virginia, and no one class. Did the Senator from Texas, although Virginia is a constitutional law, and hold that the government of the United States is still sovereign? If he old, did help him. (Laughter) So far as the Senature from texas has committed an effence by saying he owed so allegance to this government, he stood by his side. He shelid be unfaithful to Virginia if he did not. The old feudal idea of allegance was the relation between the subject and sovereign, between the vassal and lart. Aliguance here is that which is due from a cities to assess eight he sould for granted that Connecticut is the Senator's severeign, and that if he yields allegance to this government he is faithhese. The eath of ellegance in Virginia to be taken by all who are admitted to the political power of the State, is faithfully and truly to support the Commouwealth. If the Senator from Texas is a foreigner, he is for the season this door. The Senator from Texas and ab elevant his door. The Senator from Icas and allegation; for the constitution says that a foreigner shall not have a seat on this door. The Senator from Icas and above the hat the same relation the knew the fact, not because of the allegation; for the constitution says that a foreigner shall not have a seat on this door the State; and set because of this declared that the ordinance declaring separation in the same of the State; and set because it has done the same relation in the same of the State is a foreigner to him, is more discounced by their language

owe allegance to this government in preference to those of his own State. He was sworn to support the constitution and not the government.

Mr. Hunna, (opp.) of Va., regarded this movement as calculated to be dangerous. The resolution proposed to censure a member for a mere expression of opinion. The Senater from Texas had done nothing more than declare his belief in the doctrine of secession, and that his State had seceded; but that until he had the evidence of this he would sit here. With other State rights men he avowed that he owed obedience to the constitution and laws, but not allegiance. All, then, he had said was, "As he believed a majority in all the Southern States who hold to the right of secession hold if right was exercised the State placed itself in foreign relation with the rest of the Union. If this was a cause for expulsion why might not a Senator be expelled for other differences or declarations of opinion? How long might it be before it would be bohoxious to defend slavery, and perhaps a two-thirds vote obtained for upholding that institution? The power of expelling a member was never given for such purposes. Members could be punished according to the constitution only for disorderly conduct, and according to all writers on parliamentary law it is always to be exercised with great caution and care. If a man was to be punished for the expression of a mere abstract opinion, where was the usage to end? He maintained, as the Scnator from Texas had expressed no opinion that had not been expressed by all the Senators of the exceeded States, if he was to be punished, then they, too, must be expelled for they have given a practical proof that they are to reigners, from the fact that they have gove of sand established amother government. He agreed with his colleague, (Mr. Mason) that they owe allegiance to their State and obelience to the constitution.

Mr. Caank moved that the Senate go into an Executive session.

THE RESIGNATION OF ADJUTANT GENERAL COOPER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK HERALD. The unexpected resignation of the gallant Col. Cooper Adjutant General of the United States, was received like a They at ance addressed themselves to the task of ascertaining the cause, but from the Colonel they could learn nothing satisfactory. He was non-communicative; apparently an embargo had been placed upon his lips. The cause of his resignation, however, is understood to be this:—President Lincoin called on General Scott to know

NEWS FROM THE STATE CAPITAL.

The Post Office Site-Call of the House-A Committee to Relieve the Legislature-Senate-Unsafe Building Act-Meeting of the Railroad Committee on the Breadway Bill-R. mark. of Mesers. A. T. Stewart, Haight, Bulkley and Others,

The Post Office bill took a turn on Saturday even but little anticipated by the friends of the measure, and in favor of the bill had left their posts under the im

ferable to the custom practised to a great extent this winter.

Several bills were ordered to a third reading in both houses this morning, but none in the Senate of any particular interest to New York. The bill to incorporate the Eelectic Association, however, was reported complete, and ordered to a third reading.

The bill to amend the Unsafe Building act, passed last winter, was ordered to a third reading in the Assembly. This is to confer additional power on those administering that law. It seems that as the law now stands they have no power to order a landlord to change his building to make it safe.

Bill, &c. ALBANY, March 11, 1861. Weed has just arrived from Washington, in bad hu mor, and states that Speaker Littlejohn has been ap pointed Consul to Liverpool. He is receiving the con-

gratulations of his friends to-night.

The Assembly Chamber was about two-thirds filled to hear the arguments on the Broadway Railroad bill this afterneon. A. T. Stewart was the first speaker. He had hoped that he would not be called upen sgain to appearabefore a committee on that subject. Rue agitation on a railroad in Broadway commenced some eight years ago, and a grant passed the Common Council, which had been declared unconstitutional by the courts. He wished the committee to bear in mind that Broadway had changed very materially in the last few years. There were no longer any dwellings there, and the time was not far distant when that portion below Fourteenth street would be devoted excusively to wholsale business, and with a railroad the necessary receiving and despatching of goods for that class of business would be so interfered with as to make them almost impossible. The track, with cars, which this bill contemplates placing in Broadway would take up sixteen feet, leaving only twelve feet on each side for the passage of vehicles and the discharge of freight. A railroad would rum the street. He had read the bill carefully, and confessed that he newer saw a bill drawn with such skill to cover up the real nigger in it as this. He had a pride in Broadway. It may be possible that he had lived there so long and grown up with its greatness that he had an affection for it that others did not have, and he hoped that he would never lives to see the time when it would be descrated with a railroad. He then proceeded to give the width of the street at alifferent points, and stated that the franchise was a valuable one. If the citizens of New York wanted a railroad there, it should be put up at anction and sold to the highest bidder. But he believed that a majority of the citizens were opposed to it.

Mr. Haight then spoke against the bill. He stated